

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 34
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Coach Jeff Rutledge and the Montgomery Bell Academy football team, winner of the TSSAA Division II AAA State Football Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those gifted student-athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the football team of Montgomery Bell Academy is comprised of such estimable individuals; those remarkable young men recently claimed the 2002 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Division II AAA State Football Championship; and

WHEREAS, through diligence, dedication, and hard work, the Big Red maximized their considerable talents and attained great heights in their 2002 season; and

WHEREAS, having gained momentum at the end of the regular season, the MBA football team entered the State playoffs and maintained their momentum as they peaked at just the right time; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery Bell Academy's championship run began with a 28-14 victory over Baylor of Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, in the Second Round, the Big Red fought off an extraordinary effort by a talented Memphis University School team to post a muddy 20-14 revenge win; and

WHEREAS, in the State Championship final, the Big Red sought revenge against rival Brentwood Academy, and captured a convincing 27-11 win to claim the Clinic Bowl Championship; and

WHEREAS, Montgomery Bell Academy's championship was fueled by the efforts of a remarkably talented group of young men, led by a dedicated group of seniors, and All State players Michael Fisher (League MVP); Tom Santi, Team Captain; Blake Goodman; Brad French; Brent Sayles; Michael Koban; Wesley Langlois; and Team Captain Robert Foster; and

WHEREAS, these men will forever be remembered as having achieved the greatest improvement in any one MBA football season; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jeff Rutledge strongly supports Montgomery Bell Academy's Motto of Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete in producing players who are multi-dimensional, contributing members of society as well as athletes; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rutledge was ably aided by Assistant Coaches Rock Batten, Robert Black, David Brown, Edd Caudill, Joe Davis, Floyd Elliott, Matt Golenor, Jason Hiett, Daniel McGugin, Todd Moran, Jamie Redmond, Robert Sawyer, and Blake Sloan; the team also received invaluable support from the MBA Faculty and Staff; and

WHEREAS, the coaches helped precipitate the team's unrivaled success by sharing their deep love and great knowledge of the sport; and

WHEREAS, the Big Red epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved an extremely high level of success in their sport, while evidencing the most circumspect character, both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young student-athletes not only made possible a State championship football season, but will also surely serve them well as they pursue success in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the 2002 Montgomery Bell Big Red for their success on the field and for serving as fine examples of the high quality of Tennessee's citizenry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we join the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Montgomery Bell Academy in celebrating the Big Red's 2002 TSSAA Division II AAA State Football Championship, as we honor and commend the talented men who achieved this supreme success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we salute Coach Jeff Rutledge and his staff for their outstanding abilities as coaches and motivators and acknowledge their superb record in their profession and continuing concern for their players.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish them much continued success and happiness in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.